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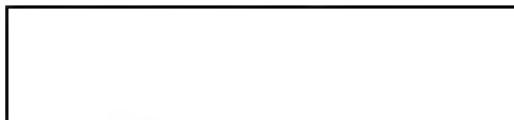


DIRECTORATE OF
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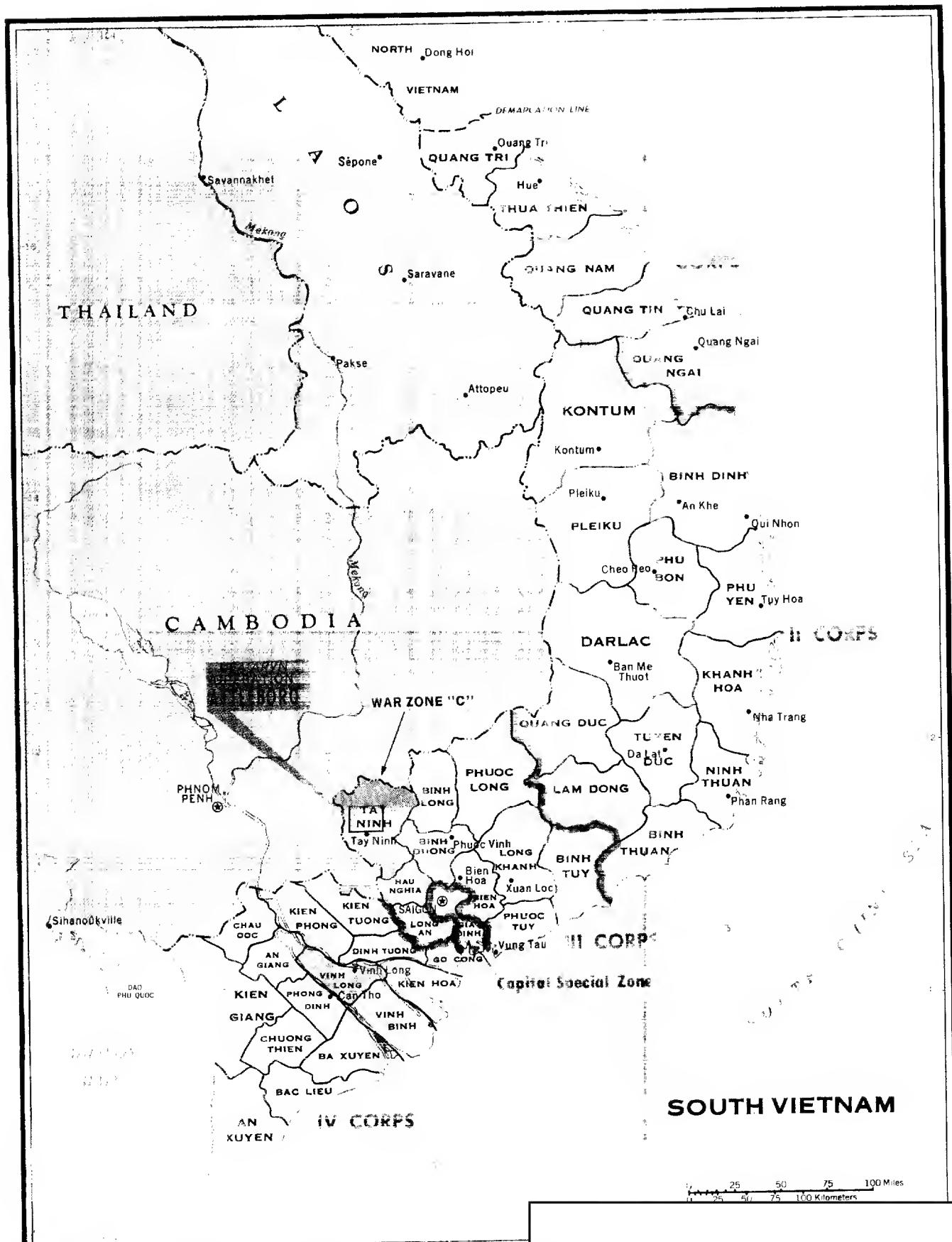
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***Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)**

Military Situation in South Vietnam: Only light fighting has been reported in the past 24 hours.

Two companies of Viet Cong troops attacked a South Vietnamese outpost in Vinh Long Province yesterday, killing 15 defenders and wounding 13. A government reaction force lost 14 killed and nine wounded as it moved in to reinforce the beleaguered outpost. Communist losses are not known.

The lull in heavy fighting in Tay Ninh Province continues, although the enemy downed three US helicopters redeploying troops in the Operation ATTLEBORO area yesterday. US troops are continuing to capture significant amounts of enemy foodstuffs and military supplies as a result of the month old sweep in the Communists' War Zone "C." (Map)

Other Developments: The Communists are starting to repair the rain-damaged road network in the Laos panhandle.

Photography, pilot sightings, and ground observations through early November, however, also indicate that the roads in the southern half of the panhandle--opposite northern South Vietnam--are so badly damaged that no truck traffic to the South Vietnamese border could have yet taken place much below the area of the Demilitarized Zone.

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Jordan: King Husayn and his regime are facing mounting popular antagonism as a result of

Israel's attack on 13 November.

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Antiregime demonstrations occurred yesterday in Hebron, capitol of the district in which the attack took place. About 600 people, most of them students, shouted insults at the government for its failure to protect the populace. According to the Hebron governor, there also were anti-American overtones in the crowd's chants. Jordanian security officials expect similar demonstrations today in other towns.

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NOTES

UK-Rhodesia: Britain's acting high commissioner in Rhodesia, John Hennings, has told US officials that he has instructions to prepare for a break with the Smith regime. Both sides may try to prolong the dialogue and he foresees the remote possibility of one more visit by a British cabinet minister. He expects, however, to be back in England for Christmas. According to Hennings, Governor Gibbs, a major prop to Britain's position in Rhodesia, has asked London to be relieved. Britain has promised the Commonwealth to take the Rhodesian issue to the United Nations by the end of the year.

*Ecuador: Former president Camilo Ponce has withdrawn his candidacy for interim president on the eve of the opening of the constituent assembly. He evidently has withdrawn because he and his conservative followers failed to dominate the preparatory commission of the assembly, but this may be a political maneuver designed to elicit further support in his drive for constitutional president. It is possible that today's inauguration assembly will be marked by serious demonstrations in the wake of Ponce's recent actions.

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